

## Passing of a Former Slave

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secretary. Upon his return he devoted some time to the arranging of exhibits of interesting war relics and posters of European countries engaging in the conflict. This wonderful collection of posters were mounted in suitable manner behind glass in metal frames, and in 1929 were presented by Mr. Kerwin to the Iowa Department of History & Archives for display in World War I room, where they have since attracted a great deal of attention. They include 63 foreign war posters of France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Russia, Belgium and Poland.

A translation of the inscriptions upon other than the British posters was made by Professor LeCoq, of Drake University, Des Moines. Mr. Kerwin was very active in many community enterprises and patriotic activities, including work upon the draft board in World War II.

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#### PASSING OF A FORMER SLAVE

Iowa has few living evidences of the touch we once had with the Civil war era. In recent decades the last veterans wearing either the blue or the gray have rapidly gone to their reward, and but few yet remain among the living.

Another group, not so large, identified with the sixties and prewar days, were the few ex-slaves, who found homes in this state; but nearly all, if not every one, has likewise gone. Possibly the last such in Iowa passed away in October last, at Oskaloosa, in the person of Charles Adams, aged 102, colored and born in slavery in Virginia in 1845.

He was freed when about ten years old, and had been making his home in Oskaloosa the past seventy-five years, where he was steadily employed in one of the local institutions. Records are inadequate often times for proof of the exact age of the elderly, white or black; but even a shading down of the age claimed for Mr. Adams, his touch with the Civil war era is not to be questioned, and that he was one of the last of that circle to remain among the living in Iowa until very recently

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